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Letter dated 11 June 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 8 June 2004, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex). I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

04-38790 (E) 010704

Annex

Letter dated 8 June 2004 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on SFOR operations for April 2004 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the present letter and its enclosure available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap de **Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the Operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 31 April 2004), there were 9,054 personnel deployed in SFOR and 25 additional personnel deployed in Croatia.

2. SFOR support to KFOR troops during the recent Kosovo crisis in March 2004 has ended and all troops and equipment have returned to SFOR's Area of Operations.

Security

3. During the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable with no serious incident to report. Explosive devices exploded on 22 and 24 April 2004 producing material damage only and investigations are ongoing in both cases. There were no significant acts of violence directed against SFOR personnel during the reporting period.

SFOR Operational Activities

4. SFOR continued to monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and remained engaged with weapons collection[1], destruction[2] and framework operations. On 19 April 2004, troops seized a weapons cache in the vicinity of Predola and in another operation, SFOR seized 10 MANPADS and 21 hand grenades together with abundant rounds of various calibre.

5. On 1 April 2004, SFOR conducted an intelligence-led operation in an attempt to detain Mr. Radovan Karadzic in Pale. This operation was part of a sustained campaign against persons indicted for war crimes (PIFWCs) in support of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

6. On 16 April 2004, a team from Multi-national Brigade North West (MNB-NW) discovered a room containing 2 NBC suits, 4 jars of white powder, a flask of dark liquid, glass ampoules of atropine sulphate, boxes of atropine injectors, some chemical detection equipment, 3 manuals on chemicals, and 2 large metal cylinders containing glass vials of white powder in an unoccupied shoe factory in Prnjavor. The chemical materials were determined to be non lethal, old chemical protection materials from the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Army. SFOR specialists packaged them and delivered them to Republika Srpska authorities for disposal.

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[1] The results of weapons turned-in/collected from 1 to 30 April 2004 within the framework of Operation Harvest are as follows: small arms, 674; ammunition of less than 20 mm, 247,018 rounds; ammunition between 20 mm and 76 mm, 4,530 rounds; ammunition more than 76 mm, 397 rounds; hand grenades, 2686; mines, 171; explosives, 161.1 Kg; other items (mortars, mortar rounds, rifle grenades, handmade ordnance, rockets, etc), 3499.

[2] To support the reduction of unserviceable and obsolete Entity Armed Forces ammunition in order to reduce ammunition quantities in BiH, SFOR has continued to conduct Operation Armadillo II. As of 30 April, the total number of VRS ammunition destroyed is 1225 tons.

Compliance by the Parties

7. On 15 April 2004, the Bosnian-Croat Federation State and Entity authorities signed a declaration on co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and called on all persons indicted of war crimes to surrender voluntarily. On 18 April 2004, units of the Bosnian Serb special police launched an operation against individuals indicted of war crimes and attempted to arrest 2 suspects believed to be cousins Milan and Sredoje Lukavic, in Visegrad. The two suspects are wanted for the murder of Bosnian civilians in 1994 but were not apprehended; Milan Lukavic's brother, Novica, was killed during the raid.

8. On 16 April 2004, High Representative Paddy Ashdown expressed frustration and displeasure with the efforts of the Authorities of Republika Srpska and with their lack of co-operation with the Srebrenica Massacre Special Commission. Lord Ashdown relieved from their duties the Republika Srpska Liaison Officer to the Hague Tribunal, Mr. Dejan Miletic, and the Army Chief of Staff of Republika Srpska, Cvjetko Savic, for obstructing the work of the Commission. Further, Lord Ashdown set a deadline of 7 June 2004 for the Commission to produce its final report and stated that he would hold the Serb Republic President and Prime Minister, MM Dragan Covic and Dragan Mikerevic respectively, personally responsible for the results.

9. The demobilisation of military members of VF and VRS has begun and should be concluded by the end of May 2004. As reported, the first State level Defence Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Nicola Radovanovic, was appointed on 15 March 2004. With regard to the nomination to other top posts, of the 18 names submitted as candidates for the general officer posts proposed by the State Ministry of Defence, only 8 generals have met the SFOR vetting criteria. Amendments of the structure are still ongoing consequent upon the recommendations given in the bilateral meetings. These amendments include adjusted numbers in the Headquarters, units and sub-units. In addition, the formation of a single State-level demining unit still needs to be incorporated within the overall restructured Armed Forces.

10. On 19 April 2004, Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed to provide guaranties that Colonel General Milivoj Petkovic, retired General Slobodan Praljak, Jadranko Prlic, Valentin Coric, Bruno Stojic and Berislav Pusic would not flee and they were temporarily released on bail. The six were indicted for taking part in the torture and massacre of Muslims in Bosnia in 1993 and had surrendered voluntarily to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on 5 April 2004.

11. During the reporting period, the Entity Armed Forces have carried out normal training activities in compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

12. There were a total of 66 Entity Armed Forces training and operations activities conducted during the reporting period, including 29 for the VRS and 27 for the VF. There were a total of 154 movements conducted during the reporting period, including 41 for the VRS and 113 for the VF.

13. On 19 April 2004, the Summer Demining Cycle started and the weather has enabled most tasks to begin as planned. However, only the VF-B and VF-H

components have been fully compliant with standard operating procedures. As the VRS has not yet complied, it has not so far been permitted to take part in that process.

14. There were a total of 125 inspection and verification visits of weapons and ammunition storage sights conducted during the reporting period – 71 for the VRS and 54 for the VF. Three sites were closed in April 2004 and another 8 are pending closure.

15. On 28 April 2004, Entity armies and civil protection units staged a joint exercise in the area of Doboj and Gracanica. Mr. Radovanovic, the Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, led the exercise named HELP CASUALTIES 2004. During the exercise, units crossed the Inter-Entity Border Line (IEBL) for the first time. The scenario was an earthquake with its epicentre along the IEBL.

16. Civilian authorities have taken over the management of air traffic at Mostar's International Airport on 1 April 2004. French Det-Air have begun to withdraw.

Conclusion

17. SFOR has continued to maintain a safe and secure environment. During the month of April 2004, local police have been more vigilant concerning persons indicted of war crimes and more eager to co-operate. The Entities' nominations for general posts in the joint structure of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina proved once again that they insist on retaining persons which the International Community does not consider to be desirable.